

# Make Church a Part of Your Life

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE



### "Who Loves You, Buddy?"

By Kirk Kasson, Almena Congregational Church

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10

When I was a teenager a popular song we used to sing said, "I'd rather laugh with the sinners than cry with the saints; the sinners are much more fun." Do you remember that song?

The idea seemed to be that if you're behaving well, you are missing out, but if you want to enjoy life you are going to have to break some rules. Those people in church are all sad, mopey, and bored with their puritanical lives. Church is for miserable people.

In the verse above we see Jesus saying the exact opposite. He says that he wants you to have a fulfilling, happy life. It's Satan that wants to cheat you out of the good things in life.

Think about it. Sin usually involves a short term pleasure at the cost of long term suffering. As a small example, consider what would happen if I steal a candy bar. I might enjoy the thrill of the theft, the pride of getting away with it, the taste of the candy, and have 400 calories to burn which I did not pay for. Satan can dangle those benefits in

front of me and tell me how sad I would be without them. What he will not tell me is the cost.

Of course I could get caught, get embarrassed, pay a fine, lose my self-respect as well as the respect of others. But even if I don't get caught I have lost

the self esteem that comes from earning something from my own labor. I've cost someone else the money they spent stocking the item and the opportunity to profit from honest work. I've subconsciously alienated myself from not just the store owner, but

honest customers as well. I've also made honest work seem loathsome; why should I work when with my brains I can get something for nothing? I've made myself less valuable to society. And whether I realize it or not, I've put an obstacle between myself and God.

So I've got a few very temporary benefits and many long term relational consequences. It makes sense why Satan would want me to steal. To be candid, I really don't think he likes the fact that I would enjoy the taste, or that I save money which can be used for other pleasures, but that's a small price to pay for the relational loss and personal grief I can cause.

This reminds me of another song lyric, one by U2: "Sweet the sin, bitter the taste in my mouth." Sin almost always has some allure to it, something to enjoy. But the cost is always great. Just as any mechanical advantage must give up something to friction, so sin is always a net loss.

God offers us forgiveness, along with the gift of repentance.

Some of us want God to continually clean out the cobwebs from our life, but we are reluctant to have him kill the spider.

## Less is More

As the average age of our population increases, the movement to "downsize" becomes more popular. Less to maintain means more time for a relaxed lifestyle and more free time. There is time for family and time to volunteer still vital energy for worthy causes in the community. As earthly baggage is reduced, there is time and energy to increase participation in God's earthly kingdom...to serve as spiritual mentors to those still caught up in the busiest part of their lives. Share the wisdom that comes with age at your house of worship; spend more time with God's family.



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### Weekly Scripture Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

1 Thessalonians 2:1-20

1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

1 Thessalonians 5:1-28

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

2 Thessalonians 1:1-17

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society



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**Drivers also Needed!** Central Refrigerated (877) 369-7885 www.centraltruckdrivingjobs.com

**Auctions**  
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### Aficionados

	D	E	C		G	E	R	M	S		D	O	M	E	
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C	E	I	L	I	N	G	F	A	N		Y	E	L	L	
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6/17/2012

### Sudoku Solution #2572-M

1	9	4	2	7	5	8	6	3
2	7	3	4	8	6	1	9	5
8	6	5	1	3	9	2	4	7
7	8	9	5	1	3	4	2	6
3	2	1	6	9	4	7	5	8
4	5	6	7	2	8	3	1	9
5	4	2	8	6	7	9	3	1
9	1	8	3	5	2	6	7	4
6	3	7	9	4	1	5	8	2

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## Rally For Religious Freedom

**Friday, June 29**  
from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at  
the Topeka Capitol, South Steps  
Let us rally together, people of all  
faiths for Religious Freedom.  
For more information or to ask for  
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Call Carol Otter at 877-5423 or  
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